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ABSTRACT

A review was conducted of 226 abstracts of documents on the topic of women's athletics to tabulate the nature and volume of selections. Documents came from the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) and were written from 1971 to 1981. Kinds of documents located from the ERIC search included: journal articles (99); classroom materials (31); research reports (21); conference papers (18); legal materials (10); books (9); serial publications (8); project descriptions (6); teaching guides (6); directories (6); non-classroom materials (4); conference proceedings (3); bibliographies (3); and a position paper (1). The peak year for publications was 1978. The ERIC abstracts indicate that the women's equity movement in sport resulted in women increasing their interest and involvement in athletics. However, the citations also indicate that this social movement has peaked and begun to diminish in intensity. (Author/CB)

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EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS GENERATED FROM 1971 TO 1981: AN EXPLOSION OF INFORMATION ON THE TOPIC OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

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The purpose of this study was to review abstracts of various kinds of documents generated from 1971 to 1981 on the topic of women's athletics available on microfische from the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) and to tabulate the nature and volume of productivity. ERIC, funded by the National Institute of Education, consists of 16 clearing houses of documents and functions to identify and disseminate information in all subject areas. Procedure was to request that ERIC run a computer search using descriptors such as women's athletics, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sex stereotypes and other topic identifiers. The computer search resulted in providing a computer printout of 226 abstracts of documents produced over a ten year span. The kinds of documents located were journal articles (99); classroom materials (31); research reports (21); conference papers (18); legal materials (10); books (9); serial publications (8); project descriptions (6); teaching guides (6); directories (6); non-classroom materials (4); conference proceedings (3); bibliographies (3); position paper (1); and miscellaneous (1). The peak year for publication of all kinds of documents was 1978. The women's equity movement in sport which resulted in women increasing their interest and involvement in athletics in the United States was a social movement that began peaked and diminished in intensity as indicated by the number of journal articles, research reports, conference proceedings, directories and bibliographies on this topic.

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EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS GENERATED FROM 1971 TO 1981: AN EXPLOSION OF INFORMATION ON THE TOPIC OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

The purpose of this study was: (1) to review abstracts of a variety of documents reviewed and selected by the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) on the topic of women's athletics and available on microfiche, and (2) to tabulate the nature and volume of selections (13,14,15). The hypothesis is that this micro study documents the institutionalization of a social movement.

Milestones Marking the Development of a Social Movement (1,2,4,8)

According to Juliet Mitchell, author of Women's Estate (1971):

> Women's Liberation Movement was one area of ferment within the Civil Rights Movement in the United States....An essential and dominant aspect of the common context of these movements seems to me to be the vast expansion in higher education in the first half of the sixties (8:28).

She defines the issues in this movement as a:

> ...campaign for equal pay, equal work and equal opportunities, for free birth-control and abortion on command, for re-examination of the whole educational set-up (8:55).

These appear to be the major issues although free birth-control and abortion are issues that would not be universally supported and therefore peripheral (6:348).

Discrimination is defined by Webster's Dictionary as the "act of making a distinction." The word feminist is defined as: (1) "the theory that women should have political, economic, and social rights equal to

those of men," and (2) "the movement to win such rights for women (11). A clear distinction in the treatment of males and females is ingrained in Western culture dating as far back in time as the Old Testament and tenants of the Christian faith where the secondary status of women is defined. The evolution of ideas to the point of support for the female to have equal legal status with the male has germinated over the centuries marked by gains and losses. There are some significant barometers indicative of social change and changing philosophies.

It is a limitation of this paper not to elaborate on the explosion of literature and research on feminist/equity issues other than to study the ERIC abstract collection which indicates a peaking of output occurring from 1971 to 1981. ERIC is a screening agent of 16 topical areas and the aim of this paper is to indicate the rising and declining of published and unpublished reprints on the topic of women's athletics that were selected to be abstracted and appear on microfiche (13,14,15). A conversation with a staff member indicated that topics of social concern tend to come into popularity, excessive productivity on many types of endeavors flourish, and then the topic recedes from being a main focus of public attention which results in a productivity decline and a leveling off of interest. Topics come to the forefront, productivity accelerates, peaks, recedes and tends to level off. Topics tend to be replaced by new topics considered more timely and these topics for a time dominate the limelight. Other examples would be interest in children's rights issues, civil rights of the handicapped, and civil rights of the elderly. The thesis of this micro study is that selectivity by ERIC acting as a clearinghouse of information is one indicator of a social movement in a technological society, i.e., the United States.

Significant Developments in the Past

Key events in the past proved to be milestones in indicating agitation for change. Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" (1792) articulated frustrations of women from the upper class being inadequately provided for because her brother, who inherited the family estate, dissipated and lost it throwing his sisters into a level of poverty where their need was acute. There were limited and inadequate means for women to provide for themselves in the labor market. Wollstonecraft had the intellectual skills to articulate the inequity of the legal status of women (12:40-85). According to English common law, when a woman married, the parties became one entity but the legal entity was the male. The female, with relatively no respectable livelihood offered her as an option by society, went from a dependency position as a daughter into a dependency position as a wife (2).

Of significance to the emergency of the women's struggle for suffrage and equal legal status with the male was the first World Anti-Slavery Convention, June 12, 1840 in London, England. Many of the women who became leaders in the women's rights movement in the United States began to learn the ropes of political persuasion from opposing slavery and intemperance.

> It is remembered primarily because it raised a question that would provoke a century and more of women's rights activity in America (5:37).

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as a young bride of an abolitionist, attended this conference on her honeymoon. Her husband never supported the cause of women suffrage but he tolerated her activity when they returned to the United States. She was the mother of seven children and very much the traditional housewife in every other respect. Her father was a judge

and she inherited property that enabled the family to survive as her husband was not a good provider. In later years the couple appeared to be estranged or not as close as in their youth and Elizabeth Cady Stanton found an intellectual rapport and psychological support from other feminists such as Susan B. Anthony (5:721). They became acquainted at the Seneca Falls Conference of 1848. Seneca Falls was the home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and much of the success of this conference was due to her efforts. The subject of the conference was suffrage for women and women's legal status. The third resolution of the "Declaration of Rights and Sentiments," produced at this conference follows:

> Resolved, That woman is man's equal--was intended to be by the Creator, and the highest goal of the race demands that she should be recognized as such (5:54).

Not until 1920 was women's suffrage granted by the addition of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, although black males secured suffrage with passage of the 15th Amendment ratified in 1870. Women had to wait for 50 more years to have the privilege of voting.

An Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was introduced in 1923 but the idea was not generally endorsed. In 1966 the National Organization for Women (NOW) was formed and one of its platforms was to reintroduce an Equal Rights Amendment* which was passed by the Congress in 1972 (6:344). As of this date, the Amendment has failed to be ratified by two-thirds of the states and an important consideration is that the same year a number of states passed statewide ERAs, among these states are Maryland and Pennsylvania.

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*The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account

In 1961 John F. Kennedy, President of the United States appointed the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Significantly, in addition to providing a respected document that defined the status of women economically, etc., this committee served as a role model for state and county governments. Consequently in 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibited any discrimination based on sex in hiring, firing, promotion, wages, classification, etc. (6:344). These steps resulted in knowledge of inequities in society that women encountered being disseminated at a grass roots level nationally.

What happened during the 1960's was part of an international movement to rethink the status of women from a world perspective. By 1967 the United Nations General Assembly (November 7, 1967) unanimously concluded:

> ...there continues to exist considerable discrimination against women...laws, practices and attitudes denying them the exercise of their rights in political activities, education, employment, marriage and family penal and civil law and other matters...(3).

In 1970, 48 states had commissions on the status of women, and the Presidential Task Force published the report, A Matter of Simple Justice (9). In 1971, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) came into being to regulate women's intercollegiate athletic competitions. In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments was passed.* As an indicator of women participating more fully in the male dominated

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*Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972

> No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...

sports world, Kathy Switzer became the first women to officially run in the Boston Marathon. In 1973 the New Jersey Civil Rights Division ruled that the National Little Leagues organization should allow girls to participate.

Actually little could be done to enforce Title IX in sports and athletics until 1975. Congressional hearings were held spring 1975 to debate the contents of the federal guidelines that would implement Title IX in the area of women's sports and athletics. After considerable opposition from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), these guidelines were approved by President Gerald Ford and Congress summer 1975 (10). Since this represented a policy change, the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) held a conference in Washington, D.C. entitled, "A National Institute for Women in Sport." By the fall of 1976, the University of Maryland was geared to offer 25 scholarships to women athletes. This happened in colleges and universities all over the country and 1976 is the year numerous positive changes occurred in funding of programs for women, more equitable provision of facilities and equipment for women, increased availability of medical training services and facilities, improved scheduling games and practice time, more funding for travel and per diem allowances, etc. (7).

A Profile of Selections of Printed Matter by ERIC

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), funded by the National Institute of Education, consists of 16 clearing houses of documents and has a publications program and computer search service (13,14,15). Procedure was to request a computer search using descriptors

such as women's athletics, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sex stereotypes and other topic identifiers.

The computer search resulted in providing a computer printout of 226 abstracts of documents produced over a ten year span. The kinds of documents located were classified as journal articles (99); classroom materials (31); research reports (21); conference papers (18); legal materials (10); books (9); serial publications (8); project descriptions (6); teaching guides (6); directories (6); non-classroom materials (4); conference proceedings (3); bibliographies (3); position paper (1); and miscellaneous (1) (Figure 1).

A frequency polygon indicates the number of printed matter in the publication programs on the topic of women's athletics yearly from 1971 to 1981 (Figure 2). The peak year for publications of all kinds of documents selected by review boards was 1978.

Conclusions

The women's equity movement in sport resulted in women increasing their interest and involvement in athletics in the United States. ERIC selections to appear on microfiche indicate this documented a social movement in women's athletics that peaked and diminished in intensity as shown by the number of journal articles, research reports, conference proceedings, directories, bibliographies, etc., on this general topic. In all probability, the low point of output on this topic will not return to the pre 1971 level.

ERIC selections on the topic of women's athletics in descending ranking order (1971-1981)	
journal articles	99
classroom materials	31
research reports	21
conference papers	18
legal material	10
books	9
serial publications	8
project descriptions	6
teaching guides	6
directories	6
non-classroom materials	4
conference proceedings	3
bibliographies	3
position paper	1
miscellaneous	1

Figure 1.

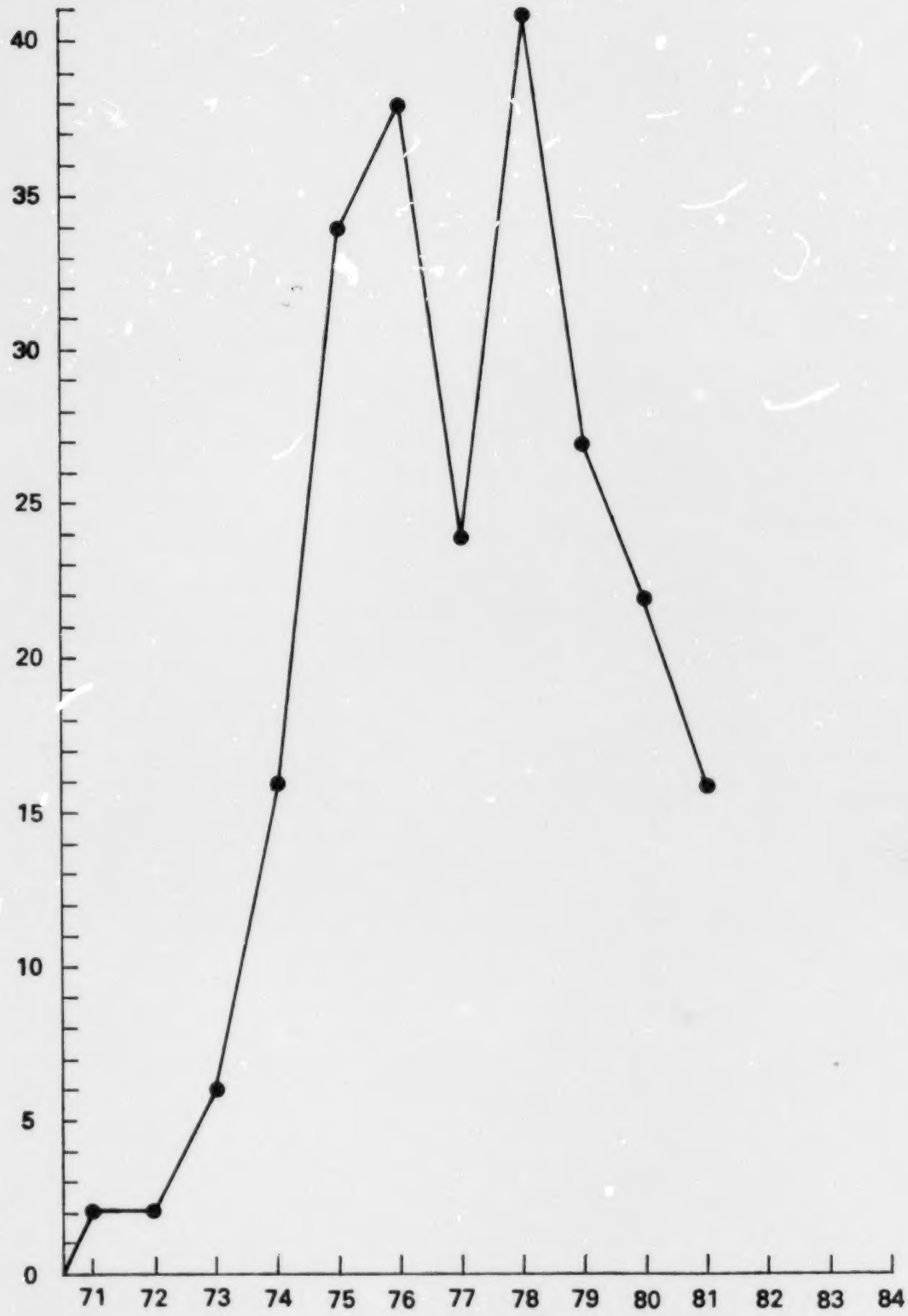

Figure 2. Frequency polygon indicating the number of documents selected to be placed on microfiche from 1971 to 1981. (Graph by Robert Matovich)

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